THE FORUM
LORISSANT VALLEY

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Boeing's *Pre-Employment Training* Program Moves to *AMC on STLCC-FV* Campus

Forum Staff

STLCC's Boeing Pre-Employment Training program will be moving to the newly opened Advanced Manufacturing Center (AMC) on campus. The project promises students who complete the program an interview at Boeing, one of the largest employers in the St. Louis region— and one of the largest weapons manufacturers in the world.

Notably, the program is offered to students at no cost as a result of funding from Boeing St. Louis. The Boeing program has two tracks, each teaching a separate trade vital to the manufacturing of modern aircraft: composites technology and sheet metal assembly.

According to STLCC Chancellor Jeff Pittman, 1,795 students have completed one of the program's two tracks since it was introduced in 2007. Though the program does not guarantee employment at Boeing, 1,420 of those students have been hired at the aerospace giant after graduating, a nearly 80% placement rate.

> Program graduates who are placed in jobs at Boeing will likely go on to work at Boeing manufacturing facilities in the Greater St. Louis area, particularly in North County, where Boeing manufactures not passenger planes, but warplanes and weapons.

Boeing's defense division, Boeing Defense, Space & Security (BDS), was headquartered in Berkeley less than four miles from the Florissant Valley campus until 2017, and the corporation's defense arm is still a preeminent player in the local economy. According to the St. Louis Business Journal, as of March 2024, BDS employed 16,681 workers in the St. Louis area, making it the fourth largest employer in the region. At its facility in North County near St. Louis Lambert International Airport, Boeing produces the F-15 lineage. In St. Charles, they build Small Diameter Bombs (SDBs) and kits that turn unguided "dumb" bombs into precision-guided "smart" bombs, called Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMs).

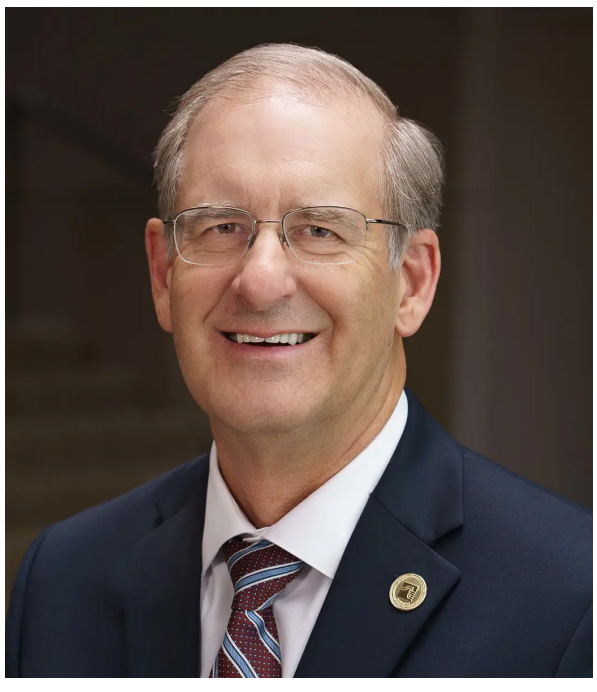
The F-15 and its variants are operated by a variety of militaries around the world, including the United States, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and Israel. In November 2024, The Israeli government announced a plan to buy 25 new F-15IA fighter jets for a total of $5.2 billion. The aircraft will be built in St. Louis, and constructed in Boeing's nearby Berkeley complex. Deliveries of the warplanes will begin 2031.

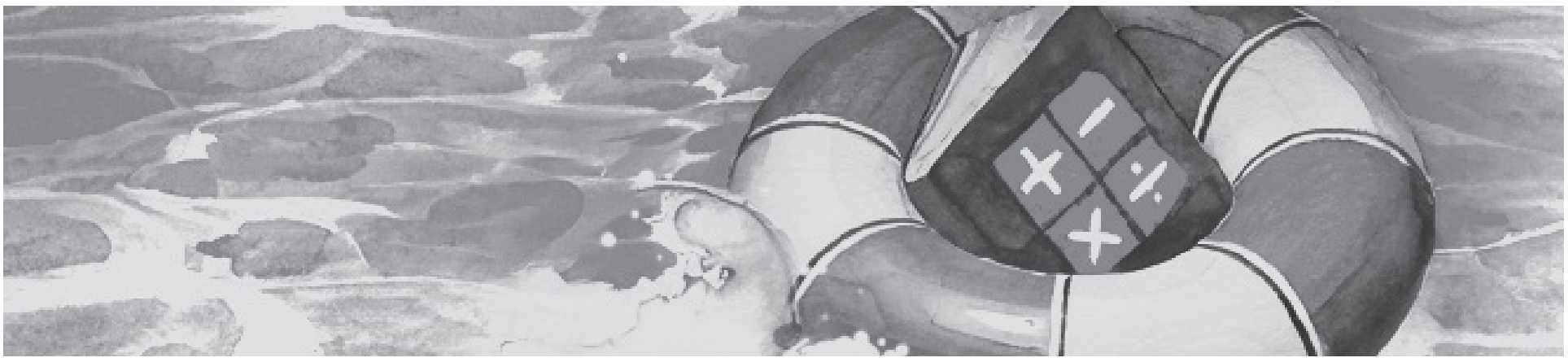
On March 21, 2025, months after the Israel announcement, The Trump administration announced that Boeing had been awarded the contract by the United States Air Force to build their next-generation fighter jet, dubbed the F-47, which they will be manufacturing at a new facility in North County. "The engineering and manufacturing development contract for the F-47 fighter jet will focus on a few planes' engineering and initial production efforts, Pittman said. "The larger-volume production will be awarded in a later contract." The new F-47 facility is currently under construction off I-170, adjacent to its existing campus at the airport. Construction on the site began in 2023, with an expected completion date of 2026 at a cost of $1.8 billion.

When asked whether it was likely that students who have gone through the Boeing Pre-Employment Training program and employed by Boeing have worked on the F-15 in the past and whether it is likely that students will work on the F-15 or F-47 in the future, Pittman wrote in response, "Boeing determines the placement of its employees on specific production lines."

Chancellor Pittman defended the Boeing Pre-Employment Training program as well as the importance of Boeing and its defense division to the local economy, calling them a "trusted partner." He added, "While it's understandable that some may have concerns about encouraging careers in the defense contracting industry, this field is very important for our national security and for developing new technologies. Boeing is a major employer in the St. Louis region, and thousands of people benefit by earning excellent wages to support their families. This, in turn, boosts the regional economy." He added,

> "In the end, promoting careers in defense contracting is about building a skilled workforce that can tackle modern challenges while maintaining high standards of integrity and responsibility."
>
> -STLCC Chancellor **Jeff Pittman**





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Finding *Your Way* Around the *Summer* Semester

Abby Westhoff | Staff Writer

Registration for summer classes at STLCC opened March 31. According to STLCC's academic calendar for the 2025 summer session, the majority of summer classes offered at STLCC, including six and eight week classes, begin June 9; three week and eleven week classes begin May 19. The official last day of the 2025 spring semester is May 18, meaning that most students currently in the spring semester and planning to take summer classes will have about a three week break—much shorter than a full summer's worth, but still enough time for a vacation or two.

It is warned though, according to professor Susan Stuart, that summer classes that are not filled to capacity will be dropped. If someone registers for a class, but not enough other students sign up, that class will be taken off the summer semester schedule and no longer be offered for that semester.

Students attending summer classes should know that, while offering the same education and covering the same content, content may be condensed to accommodate the shorter summer semester time frame. Often, summer classes meet much more frequently, and the workload may be larger. Course content is ultimately up to the individual professors and class, though.

Despite this, everything else about the summer semester is much the same as fall and spring—including financial aid. Bobby Collins Jr., associate director of enrollment services and financial aid at STLCC, said that students are eligible for the Pell Grant and direct student loans during the summer semester, as long as they meet the normal criteria: "The only restrictions from receiving federal funding during summer semester is that the student needs to have a completed FAFSA on file, be a degree seeking students, eligible for federal funding per Department of Education guidelines, and have fundable courses towards program enrolled into." Another common form of financial aid on campus, the A+ scholarship, is also applicable over the summer if students are enrolled full time (6 credit hours) in classes working towards their major.

Along with this, almost all services offered at the Flo Valley campus will continue to operate over the summer. One of these is Academic, Career, and Transfer Advising. As explained by Student Success Manager Cheryle Tucker, "during the summer, Student Success Advisors will still be available to advise students for future semesters, complete an academic plan, or explore career options during scheduled appointments." Both the Student Advocacy and Resource Center (SARC) and The Flo Valley Access Office will still offer normal hours of business over the summer. SARC includes things such as Archers Market, free hot meals, support and case management, financial support, confidential crisis response, and outreach and education, as according to SARC Coordinator Danielle Lusk. The Access Office, as stated by Geoffrey Littleton, its manager at Florissant Valley, "provide(s) accommodations, advocacy, and support to students with disabilities and disabling conditions."

The library will have slightly modified hours. During the break between spring and summer semesters, the library will have an "intersession" period where it will be open Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. During summer semester, the library will be open Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-8 p.m. and Friday 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. As the manager of the campus library, Amanda Albert, explained, "we still offer in-person and virtual research assistance, access to course materials and library resources, and spaces like study rooms."

Food service will also continue over the summer, but it will be significantly scaled back. According to Auxiliary Service Manager Julie T. Stillman, "the current food trailer on campus will depart on May 16th, and from that point onward, the menu will be condensed for the summer session." She said that they will be "adopting a robust grab-and-go model" and that "offerings will include a hotdog station, nachos, pretzels, in addition to all current grab-and-go and heat-and-serve options." The Campus Cafe will operate with reduced hours and will be open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Campus Life events will also be reduced. Campus Life Manager Dwayne Morgan explained, "The Office of Campus Life primarily utilizes the summer session as a time to plan and coordinate our events for the Fall and Spring semesters," fair reasoning for the busy campus life schedule.

While many dislike summer classes for overrunning their summer break, they offer students a chance to get ahead, catch up, or experiment in preparation for the new year. So, roll down the window, enjoy the season's humidity, and choose your path this summer.

Abby Westhoff | Artist

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STLCC Emerson *STEM* program

Savanna Nesbitt | Student Writer

St. Louis Community College is creating a stimulating path for the next generation of scientists, engineers and mathematicians through the Emerson STEM program. Emerson is a global technology and engineering company based in St. Louis. The program helps provide students with scholarships, hands-on training and internship opportunities in science and engineering fields. It was designed to help students gain real world experience while preparing them for successful careers.

The goal is to equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to thrive in STEM careers. The partnership with Emerson allows the college to provide education along with real world experiences that connect students with leaders in their desired careers.

The Emerson STEM Program offers financial assistance to students who are pursuing degrees in computer science, engineering, and biomedical sciences. Students will benefit from state-of-the-art lab facilities, courses related to their desired industry, and internship opportunities at Emerson and other companies.

A second-year engineering student at STLCC says that the program has given her many opportunities. “Being a part of this program has helped me gain hands-on experience and connect with professionals. It’s not just learning in the classroom, it’s about applying those skills in real world environments."

Although scholarship and internships are great, the program also provides mentors from Emerson engineers, who offer networking events and career workshops. Missouri has a growing demand for STEM professionals, and this program plays an important role in preparing students for high paying, in-demand jobs.

As technology continues to grow and improve, the STLCC Emerson STEM program ensures that students have the resources they need to succeed. STLCC and Emerson invest in education and workforce development and shape the future of students.

Emily Lasek, second from left, named the 2025 recipient of the David L. Underwood Award at STLCC-FV.

And The *Winner* Is...

Stephanie Licklider | Staff Writer

The recipient of the 50th David L. Underwood Memorial Lecture Award is Emily Lasek, MA, LPC, professor of psychology at St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley.

“I’m honored,” Lasek stated. She said that she was glad that the subjects of psychology and mental health are being recognized.

This award is bestowed upon a member of the faculty or staff who demonstrates the same dedication to and love of education as its namesake, as well as the college’s mission to empower students, expand minds, and change lives.

David L. Underwood became an Associate Professor of English at FV in 1963, later becoming Dean of Instruction. The Florissant Valley library was named after him following his death in recognition of his love of books and literature, his unique contributions as Dean of Instruction, and his outstanding career as a humanistic teacher. He died suddenly of a heart attack in 1975. His wife, who has been a key supporter of the award, passed away this past March.

Professor Emily Lasek will give her Underwood Lecture later this fall.

Gratitude *Chalk* Event

Professor Mariah Richardson draws in chalk on the north patio of the Instructional Resources building. Photo courtesy of Vienna I. Austin, editor.

Students draw in chalk near the library for the Gratitude Chalk Event, hosted by the campus' Wellness Committee. Photo courtesy of Vienna I. Austin, editor.

A student writes "YOU GOT THIS" in chalk at the Gratitude Chalk Event. Photo courtesy of Vienna I. Austin, editor.

A drawing and positive message left in chalk. Photo courtesy of Vienna I. Austin, editor.

A marigold sprout sits in a plastic container atop a garden bed. Another marigold has already been planted in one of the corners. Photo courtesy of Vienna I. Austin, editor.

Students and staff work on raised garden boxes at an Earth Day event at the Forest Park campus.

Herbs are transplanted into a garden bed. Photo courtesy of Vienna I. Austin, editor.

Two students transplant small potted plants at Forest Park. Photo courtesy of Vienna I. Austin, editor.

What Does *Environmentalism* Look Like at STLCC This Earth Day?

Vienna I. Austin | Staff Writer

At the Forest Park campus, an Earth Day event organized by both students and faculty invited students interested in gardening to learn about it through demonstrations and hands-on practice. The Student Garden Club and the Faculty and Staff Garden Committee of the campus set out several raised garden beds on a centrally-located paved courtyard, where faculty advisor Angela Newmyer walked students through the steps of fertilizing soil, transplanting small garden crops, and sowing seeds.

Two marigold sprouts were placed in opposite corners of each garden bed. Newmyer explained that these young plants, only delicate green leaves hanging on a thin green stem at the time, will naturally repel pests, protecting the other plants. The flowers will eventually bloom into sunny, yellow blossoms in the coming months.

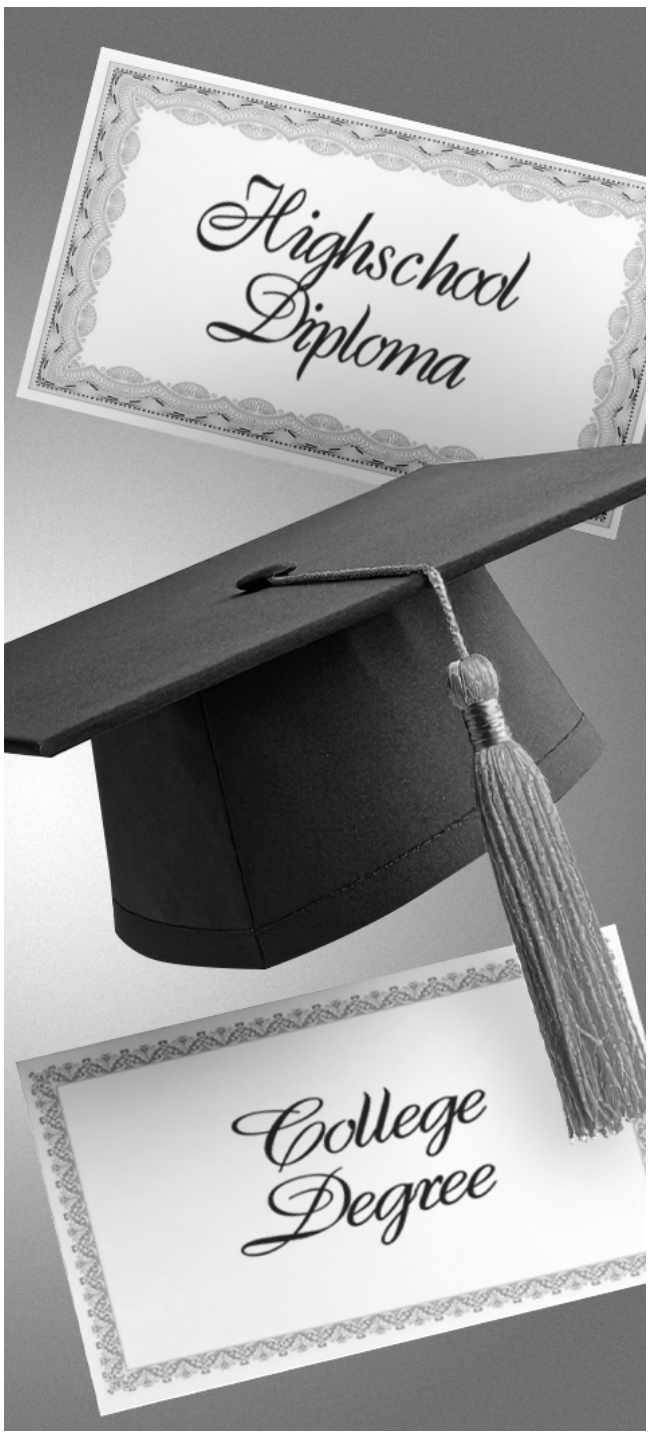
Alongside the marigolds, a number of herbs, bell peppers, jalapeños, tomatoes, and strawberries were planted. One staff member worked for nearly an hour on a planter holding a densely-packed, diverse set of common herbs, while students planted fruits and vegetables. Produce yielded from the garden beds will be stocked in Forest Park's Archers Market for students to take as needed.

Meanwhile, at the Meramec campus, a variety of student clubs took part in a large outdoor Earth Day celebration on the grassy quad between the Lecture Hall building and Communications North. Hosted by Meramec's Chem Club, the gathering looked like a small festival, with each participating club managing a table along the lawn's paved pedestrian paths. There was a tote bag decorating station, a table where students could tie-dye shirts; one table gave away seeds and plant sprouts while another gave away candy.

Feet away, inside the Lecture Hall building, Dr. Sahar Joakim Resch, a professor of philosophy, and Dr. Kathleen Hatch, a professor of biology, were discussing the science and ethics of climate change in an Earth Day lecture open to passersby. Hatch explained slide after slide of graphs and research findings showing a changing atmosphere post-industrialization, while Joakim Resch, who advises the Socratic Society, Meramec's philosophy club, offered discussion questions to the audience and thought through ethical problems aloud from a variety of perspectives for students to absorb and consider.

Twenty minutes north on I-270, Florissant Valley didn't host a formal Earth Day event, but a sense of respect for the natural environment is certainly present on the verdant campus. STLCC describes Flo Valley on its website as "nestled in 108 acres of rolling, wooded hills," and even in paved areas, decorative gardens, large trees, and our lovely campus geese are never far away.

The newly-open Advanced Manufacturing Center (AMC), too, seems to have been built with the environment in mind. On a tour of the building, the guide explained that the large windows and skylights that define the AMC's design help reduce energy usage by illuminating the interior naturally. Vertical metal fins run alongside long windows on the center's south side to help regulate temperature without using electricity. Additionally, the Advanced Manufacturing Center features a green roof, a rooftop area that will soon sustain lush vegetation.



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The Dual-Enrollment *Challenge*

Melany De La Pena Perez | Student Writer

Every fall, thousands of new college students arrive at their campuses worldwide. It is normal for them to feel excited, scared, and nervous. College life can be very overwhelming, especially for those who don't know how to navigate it.

The most common challenge is time management. In high school, deadlines may be pushed back, assignments are flexible and offer an open schedule. In college, most teachers close the assignments right after the due date. While students are also given more time to work on assignments, this can increase the opportunity for to forget them.

If new college students can learn to manage their time, not only will it help lead to academic success, but also prepare them for future careers and responsibilities. One of the most crucial things employers look for when hiring for jobs is time management skills. specifically, those who know how to prioritize tasks, meet their deadlines, and multitask efficiently. By using the available resources many students will be set for a lifetime of success.

Dual enrollment is a program that allows high school students to go in person to a community college in their area as well as being physically in the high school. This program allows the students to start earning college credit while not experiencing as much pressure as a full-time college student. Saint Louis Community College (STLCC) offers Dual Enrollment as a way to earn up to 60 credits before the first semester at a four-year college or university and pay one-sixth the price.

While dual enrollment offers many advantages it also can introduce challenges especially when it comes to balancing two different schools and academic levels. “There is a lot of pressure to do it all in college,” stated Jessica Tran, an academic advisor at City College. Being under such constant pressure can lead to procrastination. With more freedom and Independence and fewer deadlines, many students can fall into a rabbit hole of delaying work. This can be tough on the mental health of students due to the stress and sometimes lack of sleep.

The combination of academic expectations, extracurriculars, and responsibilities leads to burnout. Many students sacrifice their social life, sleep, and self-care to keep up with their workload. According to the National College Health Association, about 70% of college students report feeling overwhelmed throughout their first semester.

Despite the hardships and challenges, STLCC is packed with helpful resources. Students can find many of these resources on their website, which highlights tutoring, test prep, and study skills coaching. "Our goal is to help students develop effective strategies for academic success including managing time prepping for tests and taking effective notes, " according to the website.

For those who struggle, you are not alone. Many students daily go through the same problems. Get connected, branch out to find your true comfort zone, and live your college experience to the fullest. With the right strategies, students can turn the overwhelming nature of a college campus into a clear path for growth.

World *Book* Day

World Book Day was a success at STLCC-FV on Friday, April 25 in the library classroom. A lively discussion coupled with free books and snacks made for a well-attended event.

STLCC *Art-In*

Showay Chang, founder of the Friends of Taiwan presented a talk on tea history and techniques Friday, April 25 at the Art-In on the Flo Valley campus of STLCC.

Poetry Jam

The World Book Day celebration was followed by a poetry event outside the library. Numerous students read poems to an enthusiastic crowd.

An Appeal to the Masses for *Mass Appeal*

Stephanie Licklider | Staff Writer

This two-character play about faith, friendship, and idealistic change was a very beautiful and insightful production. The passionate acting by Scott Martin, who played Father Tim Farley, and Ethan Wichmann, who played young parishioner Mark Dolson, made "Mass Appeal" into the great performance that it was, asking thought-provoking moral questions that tested the faith and challenged the beliefs of its only two characters—and maybe even the audience.

Theatre Manager and Production Designer Marie McCool's beautifully-designed two-set scenery split the stage in two ornate parts: the parish's sanctuary, complete with a raised pulpit, and Father Farley's office, each framed with stained glass. One of the exquisite details on the set was a picture of Pope Francis, who recently died from health complications, with a black mourning ribbon draped over it. The lighting and sound enhanced the setting, and with the audience sitting so close to the actors, it really felt like one is in church. All the hard work that went into the production's design certainly seems worth it; even a detail as small as a spotlight focused on the pulpit's adorned cross made the place feel holy.

Photo credit: FV Theatre Staff

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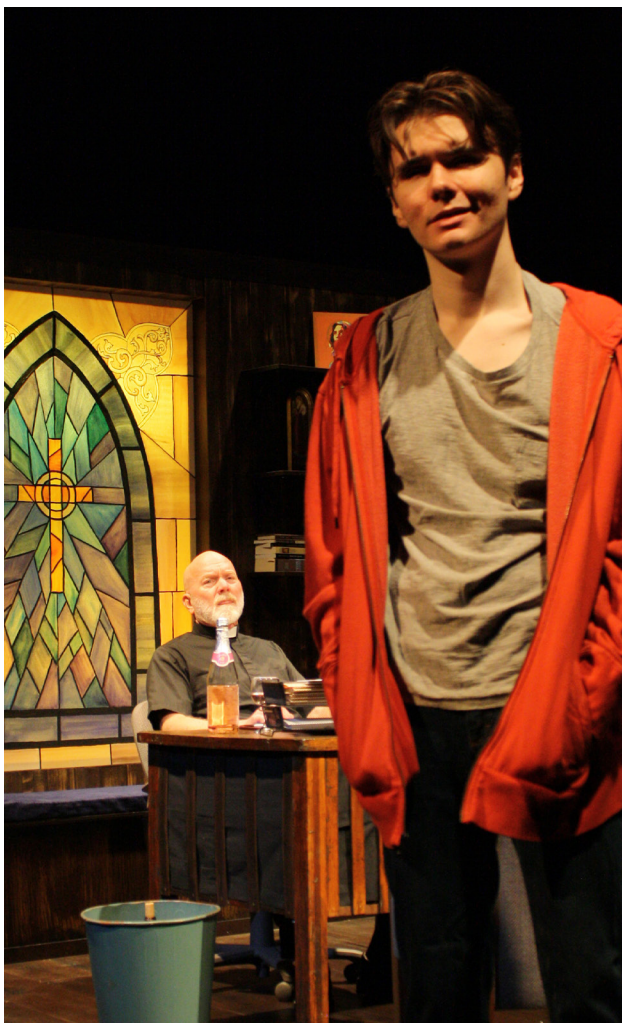

Photo credit: FV Theatre Staff

Terry M. Fischer Theatre Presents
Mass Appeal
By Bill C. Davis
Directed By Daniel J. Betzler
APRIL
24th at 11:15 am
25th* & 26th at 7:30 pm
27th at 2:00 pm
*Interpreted for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
TERRY M. FISCHER THEATRE
The Terry M. Fischer Theatre is a general admission theatre and tickets are free. We do not guarantee seating, nor do we take reservations. There is no late seating. Our theatre is strictly first come, first served. Children 10 and over are welcome. Limited seating.
STLCC prohibits discrimination based on sex, veteran status, disability, or any other protected class. Visit stlcc.edu/nondiscrimination to learn more about the College's nondiscrimination policies and for information on ways to contact the director for community standards/ Title IX coordinator to make a report. Requests for accommodations should be directed to Marie McCool, FV Theatre Manager, at mmccool@stlcc.edu at least two working days prior to the event date.
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